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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
21 May 1963**

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: US Helicopter Pilots Downed in North Korea

1. On 17 May a US Army helicopter, assigned to the 55th Aviation Company, Eighth Army Headquarters, and piloted by Capts. Ben W. Stutts and Charleton Voltz, was forced down about 17 miles northwest of Seoul on the Communist side of the Demilitarized Zone that separates North Korea from South Korea. The North Koreans claim that they fired at the aircraft, but it has not been confirmed that their fire caused the landing.

2. According to information from US sources, the two Americans were on a mission for the UN Command checking the southern markers of the Demilitarized Zone in the area of the Han River estuary. On 30 April the North Koreans had charged that the UN Command had moved the "number five" boundary marker in the estuary area. However, it is not known whether the flight was being made as a result of the Communist charges.

3. We do not fully know what has happened to the pilots since their capture.

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Observers in South Korea who witnessed the capture reported that the pilots walked away from their aircraft, suggesting that they were either unhurt or not seriously injured.

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Army review(s) completed NSA review completed

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5. Pyongyang's propaganda has taken the line that the helicopter flight was an intentional US act of aggression, but its overall propaganda treatment has been light so far. The North Koreans have agreed to attend a meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission on 22 May, called by the US to discuss the return of the pilots and aircraft.

6. Pyongyang has not indicated whether it will stall or refuse to return the airmen. In the most recent previous incident in which an American flier was captured north of the Demilitarized Zone, the North Koreans delayed about eight days before turning the captive back to UN authorities in South Korea.

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